

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 08163 291412Z

55

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 CCO-00 ARA-06 /080 W

----- 006726

Z O 291259Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 7704

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 8163

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, IMPDET

TAGS: AEMR, PFOR, PINS, SP, EK

SUBJ: GOS REQUEST FOR U.S. REACTION ON SPANISH PLANS FOR
EVACUATION OF SPANISH CITIZENS FROM EQUATORIAL GUINEA

REF: MADRID 7596

1. AT REQUEST OF FONMIN OREJA, NOW IN PARIS WITH THE KING, UNDER SECRETARY SOLANO ASKED TO SEE ME RUGENTLY THIS MORNING TO INFORM ME OF GRAVE SPANISH CONCERNS REGARDING THE SAFETY OF SPANISH CITIZENS IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND TO REQUEST USG REACTION TO GOS PLANS TO PREPARE FOR EVACUATION OF SOME 250 - 300 SPANISH CITIZENS LIVING THERE.

2. SOLANO BEGAN BY RECALLING THAT TWO SPANISH EMISSARIES HAD VISITED PRESIDENT MACIAS IN LATE SEPTEMBER/EARLY OCTOBER (REFTEL) TO INFORM HIM THAT SPAIN COULD NO LONGER MAINTAIN FULL PRESS CENSORSHIP OF NEWS RELATING TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND THAT THE BAN WOULD BE LIFTED IN MID-OCTOBER. MACIAS HAD REACTED STRONGLY TO THIS AND HAD STATED THAT SPAIN WOULD THEN ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FATE OF THE SPANISH CITIZENS LIVING AND WORKING IN THAT COUNTRY. THE SPANISH EMISSARIES HAD REJECTED THIS AND INDICATED TO MACIAS THAT HE WAS THE ONE RESPONSIBLE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 08163 291412Z

FOR PROTECTING THESE SPANISH CITIZENS. SOLANO INDICATED

THAT THE EMISSARIES HAD BROUGHT WITH THEM TWO CREDITS AMOUNTING TO A TOTAL 300 MILLION PESETAS FOR AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION AND FOR AN AQUEDUCT IN AN ATTEMPT TO SWEETEN THE ATMOSPHERE.

3. SOLANO TOLD ME THAT ON OCTOBER 18 MINISTET OREJA AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION HAD HAD A MEETING WITH SPANISH EDITORS TO INFORM THEM OF THE LIFTING OF THE PRESS BAN WHILE AT THE SAME TIME SEEKING THEIR HELP TO BE AS RESTRAINED AS POSSIBLE IN THEIR NEWS COVERAGE IN ORDER NOT TO ENDANGER THE LIVES OF THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA. THE PRESS HAD PAID NO ATTENTION TO THIS REQUEST AND NEWS COVERAGE HAS BEEN UNRESTRAINED, CULMINATING IN A PRESS CONFERENCE TWO DAYS AGO IN MADRID BY A NUMBER OF GUINEAN POLITICAL LEADERS REPORTING THE MASSACRE OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN GUINEA OVER THE LAST YEARS.

4. LATE ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 28 THE SPANISH CHARGE IN MALABO HAD SENT TWO URGENT MESSAGES TO MADRID. THE FIRST ONE REPORTED THAT THE GUINEAN CHIEF OF PROTOCOL WHO IS PARTICULARLY FRIENDLY WITH THE CHARGE HAD COME TO SEE HIM TO EXPRESS HIS DEEP CONCERN OVER THE INCREASINGLY IRRATIONAL ATTITUDE OF MACIAS TOWARD SPAIN AND HIS FEAR THAT MACIAS WAS ABOUT TO TAKE ACTION TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH SPAIN. THE CHARGE HAD REPORTED GREAT NERVOUSNESS AMONG THE SPANISH COMMUNITY AND THAT HE AND HIS WIFE WERE PROCEEDING TO BATA TO TRY TO CALM THE COMMUNITY. ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS A SECOND TELEGRAM HAD COME IN IN WHICH THE CHARGE HAD REPORTED THAT THE GUINEAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAD ANNOUNCED (THE TELEGRAM DID NOT SAY HOW) THAT THE KING OF SPAIN HAD ATTACKED EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND ITS PRESIDENT AND THAT A POPULAR DEMONSTRATION AGAINST SPAIN WOULD TAKE PLACE IN FRONT OF THE SPANISH EMBASSY OCTOBER 31.

5. SOLANO WENT ON THAT HE HAD IMMEDIATELY COMMUNICATED WITH OREJA IN PARIS, THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR DEFENSE MATTERS AND IT HAD BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 08163 291412Z

DECIDED TO SEND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY TWO AIRCRAFT TO DOUALA; ONE A DC-9 AND ONE A PROP-DRIVEN CONVAIR. THE DC-9 WOULD BE ABLE TO GO INTO MALABO AND THE PROP-PLANE WOULD GO INTO BATA, AS NEEDED.

6. SOLANO SAID THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS HOW TO APPROACH MACIAS IN ORDER TO RESTRAIN HIM FROM ANY MAD ACTION TOWARD THE SPANISH COMMUNITY AND TO GET HIS APPROVAL

FOR THE LANDING OF THE PLANES AND EVACUATION OF THE SPANISH CITIZENS. NEITHER THE RUSSIANS OR THE CHINESE COULD BE HELPFUL AND THE FRENCH AND GERMANS HAD NO INFLUENCE WITH MACIAS. THIS LEFT ONLY THE CUBANS.

7. SOLANO SAID THAT THE GOS FULLY RECOGNIZED THE DANGERS OF FURTHER INVOLVEMENT OF THE CUBANS IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND THE GOS DID NOT WANT TO MOVE TO SEEK CUBAN HELP WITHOUT OBTAINING AN ADVANCE USG REACTION. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CUBANS WERE OF COURSE ALREADY IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA SO IT WAS NOT AS IF THEY WERE BEING INVOLVED FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT WAS ALSO NOT CERTAIN WHAT THE CUBAN REACTION WOULD BE TO A SPANISH REQUEST.

8. IN SUM SOLANO ASKED ME URGENTLY TO OBTAIN A REACTION FROM WASHINGTON TO GOS PROPOSAL TO TURN TO THE CUBANS FOR ASSISTANCE. I TOLD HIM I WOULD DO SO, COMMENTING ONLY THAT SINCE THE LIVES OF THE SPANISH CITIZENS APPEAR TO BE IN DANGER I COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT OUR REACTION WOULD BE OTHER THAN UNDERSTANDING AND SYMPATHY FOR THE SPANISH POSITION. I PROMISED THAT I WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH HIM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO GIVE HIM OUR OFFICIAL REACTION.

STABLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENSORSHIP, POLICIES, THE PRESS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, EMERGENCY PLANNING, EVACUATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MADRID08163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1 IMPDET
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760404-0284
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976105/aaaaadsa.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MADRID 7596
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOS REQUEST FOR U.S. REACTION ON SPANISH PLANS FOR EVACUATION OF SPANISH CITIZENS FROM EQUATORIAL GUINEA
TAGS: AEMR, PFOR, PINS, SP, EK
To: STATE YAOUNDE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006